



Call for Expressions of Interest: RIATT-ESA Strategic Plan Development

RIATT-ESA seeks to carry-out a strategic planning exercise to revisit the network's purpose, structure and performance and inaugurate a new phase in RIATT-ESA's development. It therefore seeks the services of a highly qualified consultant to guide this process from the beginning to completion.

About RIATT-ESA

The Regional Inter-Agency Task Team on Children and AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa (RIATT-ESA) was established in response to the 2006 Global Partners Forum recommendation to establish regional task teams to accelerate commitments to meet the 2001 UNGASS and MDGs (2006 Abuja Declaration) targets and regionalize the mandate and goals of the global IATT on Children and AIDS.

Until December 2018 when the current strategic plan expires, RIATT-ESA will be working to implement the UN General Assembly's 2011 and 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS and the Sustainable Development Goals, supporting universal access for children to prevention, care, treatment and support in the context of HIV and AIDS by harnessing the power of a joint response across regional political and economic bodies, civil society organizations, academia, donors and UN agencies.

Vision and Mission

The RIATT-ESA *vision* is: Universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for children affected by AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa.

RIATT-ESA's *mission* is: To strategically influence global, regional and national policy formulation and implementation for children and their families affected by AIDS through research; knowledge generation and dissemination; and advocacy.

Strategic Objectives and Approaches

RIATT-ESA's strategic objectives are:

1. To provide technical assistance to SADC, EAC, and AU to support their Member States to strengthen provision and access to comprehensive care and support services for children and their families/carers, and which are sensitive to the changing needs of girls and boys through their life cycle.
2. To advocate for comprehensive HIV- and child- sensitive social protection systems to address the structural drivers underlying the pathways between children's vulnerability and HIV transmission.

RIATT-ESA seeks to add value to global and regional initiatives through:

- Supporting collaboration and coordination of key stakeholders in the region to contextualize commitments to HIV/AIDS issues
- Identifying regional challenges as a consortium and propose solutions
- Supporting regional bodies to address HIV and AIDS in children by working actively with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC), and the African Union (AU)

- Giving a stronger voice to children and adolescents by involving them and supporting their participation within regional processes
- Keeping key messages on the agenda by advocating regionally and globally on issues affecting children, adolescents and their families and carers in Southern and Eastern Africa in the context of HIV and AIDS
- Identifying information and learning gaps and proactively coordinating with different stakeholders to address the gaps
- Promoting, learning and making information more easily accessible by maintaining a RIATT-ESA specific website on Children, Adolescents, and AIDS

Scope and Purpose of the Consultancy

Developments in the AIDS Response

The last decade has seen a number of significant shifts in the AIDS response. At the global policy level, the key shifts include the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, where economic development and environmental sustainability are dominant themes.

Within the AIDS response UNAIDS led-90/90/90 goals focus on 90% of the population knowing their status, 90% of those accessing treatment and 90% remaining virally suppressed.

Most African countries are reporting declining incidence levels. However, there are growing fears of resurgence in adolescents and youth, while at the same time they are devastating impacts on infected and affected girls and boys, as they grow older.

In HIV prevention and treatment is a re-recognition of the need to sustain a multi-faceted response that includes the social, economic, behavioural, developmental and medical dimensions (Whiteside, ROAPE 2015) both to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS infection on children. Considerable attention is also being placed on understanding the specific drivers of HIV infection, eradication of stigma and discrimination and ensuring quality services for all.

At the same time, there is reduced external financing for the response, and in instances incorporation of remaining HIV funding into the sexual reproduction health rights (SRHR) and other agendas. There are also calls for increased domestic investment on these issues, albeit in a context of shrinking economies in eastern and southern Africa.

In light of these developments and more, the consultant is expected to help RIATT-ESA process available evidence and understand the gaps in the children's response, including in policy and programmes. Ultimately, we would like to answer the question- **what should the development world, and particularly RIATT-ESA be doing to ensure the end of HIV/AIDS as a health and developmental threat on children by 2030?**

Consultancy Objectives

The main objective of the consultancy is (in consultation with RIATT-ESA members) to develop the RIATT-ESA strategy (Not more than 20 pages) and a costed implementation plan 2019-2022. Under the direction of the Programme Manager and the Steering Committee, the consultant is expected to:

1. Conduct a mini review of the situation and policy environment facing children affected by HIV/AIDS in ESA and develop a background paper on “existing similar networks and models: what works and what does not work in practice”
2. Conduct a RIATT-ESA member survey to determine members own and RIATT-ESA experiences learnt so far, achievements, gaps and critical issues and themes that the network should address and focus on
3. Provide evidence for suggested approaches for feasibility and impact and suggest areas for improvement
4. Compile a first draft strategy- defining in appropriate language the strategic and operational objectives of the network
5. Lead the review of the strategy by RIATT-ESA programme management; steering committee and partners during a partner’s meeting and capture the proceedings
6. Incorporate findings from the partners meeting and use this to finalise the strategy and costed implementation plan.

Deliverables

1. Well written, logical and coherent background paper (Strategy Document)
2. RIATT-ESA Strategic Plan and Costed Implementation Plan 2018-2022
3. RIATT-ESA summary strategy power point presentation (max 10 slides)

Time schedule

RIATT-ESA anticipates a level of effort for this the consultancy of 30 days. The anticipated timeframe for the consultancy is from 1 May to 30 June, 2018.

Responsibilities of RIATT-ESA

- Provide relevant materials on RIATT-ESA
- Provide input into the strategy
- Assist with contacting and setting appointments with key stakeholders as needed
- Review draft strategy and Implementation Plan
- Facilitate RIATT-ESA approval process

Qualifications

- Minimum 5 years’ experience in strategic planning and facilitation
- Strong knowledge of the Children’s and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and the situation of children affected by AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa
- Strong knowledge of global and regional policies and frameworks for children and youth
- Knowledge of RIATT-ESA history, partners, and work
- Excellent writing skills

- Excellent communication, facilitation and synthesis skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Post graduate university qualification

Expression of interest

Please send:

- A curriculum vitae
- An expression of interest indicating your proposal, capacity, availability, estimated time, and daily rate to undertake the work outlined above. Send to naume.kupe@repsi.org by the 18th of April 2018.